

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 793

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to newborn hearing screening.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 47.003(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A birthing facility, through a program certified by the department under Section 47.004, shall perform, either directly or through a referral to another program certified under that section ~~[transfer agreement]~~, a hearing screening for the identification of hearing loss on each newborn or infant born at the facility before the newborn or infant is discharged from the facility unless:

(1) the parent declines the screening;

(2) the newborn or infant is transferred to another facility before the screening is performed; ~~[or]~~

(3) the screening has previously been completed; or

(4) the newborn was discharged from the birthing facility not more than 10 hours after birth and a referral for the newborn was made to a program certified under Section 47.004 at another birthing facility or health care provider.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.